

Remarks/Arguments

A. Claims in the Case

Claims 1, 5-29, and 31-40 have been rejected. Claims 2-4 and 30 have been objected to. Claims 1, 3, 13, and 30 have been amended. Claims 2, 6-12, and 31 have been canceled. Claims 1, 3-5, 13-30, and 32-40 are pending in the case.

B. Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action stated “claims 2-4 and 30 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.”

Claims 1 and 13, and the claims dependent on claims 1 and 13 (claims 3-5, 13-30, and 32-40), now include features from claim 2. As such, Applicant submits that claims 1 and 13, and the claims dependent thereon, are in condition for allowance.

C. The Claims Are Not Anticipated by Mages Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

In the Office Action, claims 1, 6-8, 10-11, 13-15, 17, 19, 21-28, and 31-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,463,467 to Mages et al. (hereinafter “Mages”). Applicant submits that Mages does not appear to teach or suggest all of the features of Applicant’s claims.

D. The Claims Are Not Obvious Over Mages In View Of Parker Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action, claims 9, 16, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mages in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,909,589 to Parker et al (hereinafter

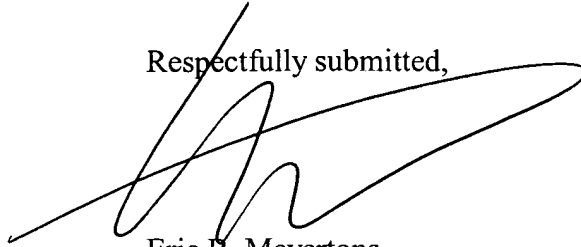
“Parker”). Applicant submits that Mages in view of Parker does not appear to teach or suggest all of the features of Applicant’s claims.

E. Summary

Based on the above, Applicant submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that no extension of time is due with this response. If any extension of time is required, Applicant hereby requests the appropriate extension of time. Should any fees be required, the Commissioner is authorized to appropriately charge those fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5664-00200/EBM

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric B. Meyertons'.

Eric B. Meyertons
Reg. No. 34,876

Agent for Applicants

MEYERTONS, HOOD, KIVLIN, KOWERT & GOETZEL, P.C.
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
(512) 853-8800 (voice)
(512) 853-8801 (facsimile)
Date: FEB 1, 2005